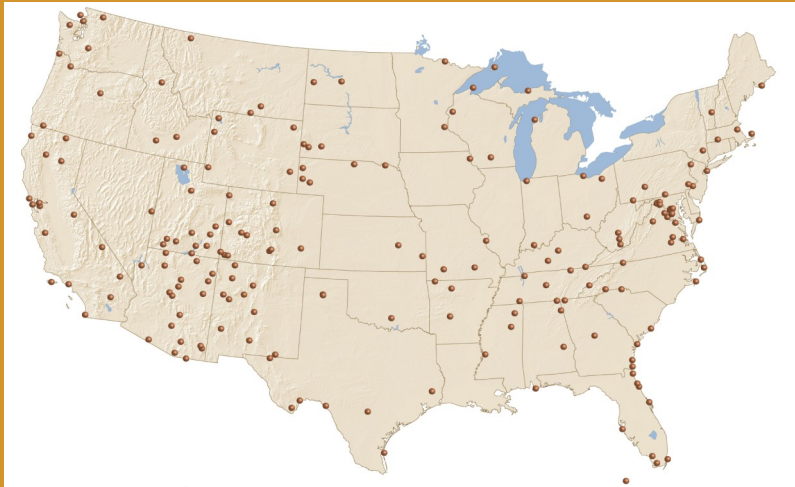
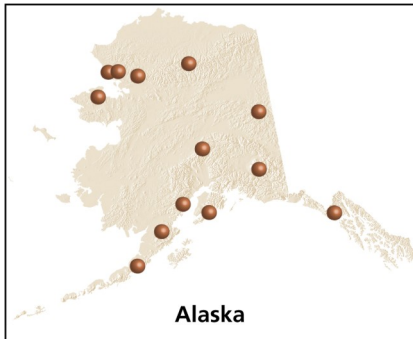


There Are Many Fossil Parks

Paleontologists have found amazing fossils at 230 National Parks! There may be many more. It is your job as Junior Paleontologists to continue exploring, learning, and protecting fossils.



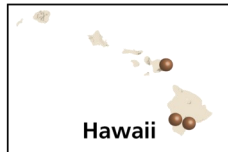
inset maps not to scale



Alaska



Guam



Hawaii



Puerto Rico & Virgin Islands



To learn more about fossils and National Fossil Day, go to:
<http://nature.nps.gov/geology/nationalfossilday/index.cfm>



Smithsonian
National Museum of Natural History



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Geologic Resources Division



The Great Junior Paleontologist Fossil Hunt at the
Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History

NATIONAL FOSSIL DAY



EXPLORE • LEARN • PROTECT

Your mission as Junior Paleontologist is to explore, learn, and protect fossils. Paleontologists perform these duties at national parks.

Step 1—Explore! Find fossil in the museum, like those often found in national parks. You might find a few fossils in surprising places.

Grand Canyon National Park, Arizona

Paleozoic Era



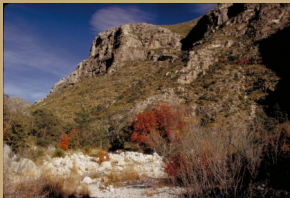
Millions of years ago

Environment

Name a fossil

Guadalupe Mountains National Park, Texas

Permian Period



Millions of years ago

Environment

Name a fossil

Petrified Forest National Park, Arizona

Triassic Period



Millions of years ago

Environment

Name a fossil

Dinosaur National Monument, Colorado & Utah

Jurassic Period



Millions of years ago

Environment

Name a fossil

Fossil Cycad National Monument, South Dakota

Cretaceous Period



Millions of years ago

Environment

Name a fossil

Step 2—Learn! Carefully study museum exhibits on prehistoric life and answer the following questions:

- How many millions of years old is that fossil?
- What kind of environment existed in the park at that time?
- What is your favorite fossil that can be found at that park?

Fossil Butte National Monument, Wyoming

Eocene Epoch



Millions of years ago

Environment

Name a fossil

Badlands National Park, South Dakota

Oligocene Epoch



Millions of years ago

Environment

Name a fossil

Fossil Butte National Monument, Nebraska

Miocene Epoch



Millions of years ago

Environment

Name a fossil

Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument, Idaho

Pliocene Epoch



Millions of years ago

Environment

Name a fossil

Step 3—Protect! Fossil Cycad National Monument was created in 1922. Many visitors took fossils illegally and the park closed in 1957, because there were no more fossils left. As a Junior Paleontologist, how can you protect fossils at other parks?
